

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,     )     Application No. 911-007.2  
on its own motion, to provide         )  
for and fund Intertandem             )     ORDER  
trunking across the state of         )  
Nebraska for use in provision of     )  
wireless enhanced 911 service.       )     Entered: April 4, 2006

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission has been responsible for the administration of the Wireless E911 Fund since passage of the Wireless Enhanced 911 Services Act in the 2001 Session of the Nebraska Legislature. The Commission and its staff have been actively assisting public safety answering points (PSAPs) and wireless carriers with implementation of wireless E911. In its role as facilitator among PSAPs, local exchange carriers, and wireless carriers, the Commission became aware of a need to transfer Phase I E911 wireless calls among different PSAPs.

Due to the mobile nature of wireless phones, a call to 911 is sometimes routed to the wrong PSAP. A call from a cell phone could transmit through a carrier's cell tower and be transferred to a PSAP that is not actually the closest PSAP to the caller. While wireless carriers have made efforts to minimize the occurrence of such a scenario, a need still exists for PSAPs to be able to transfer a wireless call to a PSAP that is able to more quickly direct emergency services to the caller.

Currently, a PSAP in Nebraska can transfer wireless 911 calls to another PSAP, but only the voice is transferred. With Phase I wireless enhanced 911, the PSAP receiving a 911 call receives a call-back number and cell site information. Without Intertandem trunking, the call-back number and cell site information cannot be transferred to another PSAP. Transfer of such Phase I information is crucial in locating the person making the 911 call.

O P I N I O N     A N D     F I N D I N G S

In the interest of carrying out the intent and purposes of the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act (Act), the Commission finds that it should fund Intertandem trunking across the state. The Act provides in part, "The Commission shall have any powers necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of the act."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-465(3) (Reissue 2002).

Furthermore, "The Commission shall determine the most efficient method for providing enhanced wireless 911 service."<sup>2</sup>

The Commission proposes to connect tandems in three stages. The first stage would connect the Qwest tandems of Norfolk; Grand Island; Sioux City, Iowa; and Des Moines, Iowa. The second stage would connect ALLTEL's Lincoln tandem; and the third stage would be to connect Sprint's Scottsbluff tandem to the Qwest Grand Island tandem. A greater number of PSAPs served by Qwest Corporation (Qwest) have implemented Phase I wireless E911, thus the first stage would be connecting Qwest's tandems. Connecting the tandems of ALLTEL and Sprint would be more cost effective at a later date, as there are currently not enough PSAPs with Phase I E911 in either carrier's service area.

Total costs were approved to connect Qwest tandems in Norfolk; Grand Island; Sioux City, Iowa; and Des Moines, Iowa and Alltel's Lincoln tandem in the amount of \$790,074.91. Qwest and Alltel performed all the work necessary to connect the tandems. Costs were to be paid by the Wireless Enhanced 911 Fund. On February 23, 2005, the Commission approved initial installation costs in the amount of \$1,394.16 for Alltel.

At this time, the Sprint tandem in Scottsbluff and Qwest tandem in Grand Island will be connected. The total costs of providing Intertandem trunking between Sprint and Qwest will be \$30,876.17 for non-recurring costs and \$1,488.48 for monthly recurring costs. These costs are itemized in Exhibit 1 attached to this order. Qwest would perform all the work necessary to connect the tandems. Costs would be paid by the Wireless Enhanced 911 Fund.

Based upon the request for funding and supporting documentation, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the request for funding should be granted. All costs of Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) surcharges and any legitimate government-imposed taxes or surcharges assessed on enhanced wireless 911 charges should also be paid.

#### O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Commission staff pursue construction of Intertandem trunking across the state as described in this order.

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<sup>2</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-464 (Reissue 2002).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon invoice from Qwest, costs of Intertandem trunking that comport with this order shall be paid by the Wireless Enhanced 911 Fund.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 4th day of April, 2006.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director